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George Grey Egerton-Warburton to Leslie Peel Hall, 9
September 1910

Langton
Oatlands Park
Weybridge
Sep 9th 1910

My dear Leslie

We arrived here, Maude Mullin's place to stay a few days, straight from Shackerstone. Amy rushed about as soon as we got there in the afternoon, and up to the time we left the next afternoon was interviewing church wardens the Rector and an old Farmer of 95 years of age but did not get much out of him that I could understand he seemed to talk most about a Captain Hall who must have been a brother or cousin of your people & lived on the opposite side of the church to the Hall or Manor House where the head of the family lived. Amy will post to you what Photos she was able to get of the old church &c &c.

I shall try and explain to you what I understand about it. The Manor House in the old days was, at least, the grounds, commenced about 200 [?yards] from the old church there is nothing left of it but a bit of stone wall & three or four cottages are built on the site & in a sort of grass field there is a artificial hill with an ancient ditch round three sides of it called the Mont hill perhaps part of their establishment in their prosperous days, also that the Halls had a vault in the church, that the church was restored about 70 years ago when they went in for plain architecture not restoring the churches in the original style as they do now, so the nave was shortened & it is supposed the east wall was built over the Hall vault leaving part out side the church & the other part is under the Communion table of the present [? chapel].

The Halls seem to have been Squire & Vicar as well, in one of the restored windows (tradition says they took the old Saxon or Norman windows out & put there [?new] white glass windows in with the arms of the family who owned land about the church) there is a

shield with the three talbots or & R.E. Hall Vicar above & Lord Howe's shield the other side of the window so at the time of the restoration of the church a Hall must have been Vicar although he does not seem to have lived at Shackerstone but seems to have been a rector of another place as well, we were shown the old registers in the church but I could not make anything out from them to trace your branch of the family. Your father & brothers must have been christened somewhere else (children were not registered when born in those days) there are Sarah ... Hall and Henry ... Hall but the dates are not right for your own people but when Amy writes her impressions to you perhaps she may be clearer as she knows more than me of your family. Shackerstone is quite in the back ground the chief Landlord Lord Howe, a descendant of the L.H. to whom your grandfather sold the place is very stingy & does nothing for it except to draw his rents, there is a small railway junction about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the only Pub where perhaps 50 trains pass in a day yet I think the place is more backward than it was in your G. Fathers time there are about 450 people in the parish, with best love to you my dear Leslie

Yr aff

G Grey E Warburton

I trust you can make my letter out